



**D U R H A M**

## **Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission**

Durham Transportation Division ▪ 101 City Hall Plaza ▪ Durham, NC 27701

November 17, 2009

Minnie Forte-Brown  
Chair, Durham Board of Education  
511 Cleveland Street  
Durham, NC 27701

Subject: School Site Selection and Bicycle/Pedestrian Amenities at Schools

Dear Ms. Forte-Brown,

The Durham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) is a citizen's advisory commission charged with advising local governing bodies on matters related to promoting pedestrian and bicycle travel and safety. One area of interest is promoting walking and biking to schools.

We understand that the district is in the process of selecting sites for new schools or has already sited the locations of a few planned schools. One concern that we've heard from citizens is that it is often difficult or nearly impossible to avoid automotive travel to newly built schools. We realize that there are many criteria that go into the selection of a school site, but urge the Board of Education to be mindful of the adopted Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation plans, and to take into account their associated route plans in your selection criteria.

We also urge the Board of Education to consult with BPAC on bicycle and pedestrian amenities at facilities prior to submittal of site plans to the Development Review Board. We feel that we can provide valuable insights into the best amenities for a given site based upon its location and the type of facility. In association with this, we'd like to work with your Board on obtaining Safe Routes to schools grants, which would help fund connectivity of schools to neighboring facilities.

We would like to invite you or a member of the Board of Education to a future BPAC meeting to discuss these issues further. BPAC meets the third Tuesday of every month in the second floor committee room of city hall. Please let me know if we can meet in the coming months.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. Encouraging more walking and biking amongst children and young adults will help reduce obesity and other health related issues that society faces. It will also help reduce the need for automotive transportation, whether it is provided by the school or the parent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Dippy". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Alan Dippy  
Chair

cc: Hank Hurd, Interim Superintendent, Durham Public Schools